

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197807
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
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R 191807Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 197807

STADIS//////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: DAMASCUS 5292

1. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ AND OFFICES OF SENATORS STONE AND JAVITS TO RELAY FACTUAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TOUTAH ON THE INTERROGATION ALONG WITH TOUTAH'S PLEA THAT NO PUBLICITY OR CAMPAIGN BE GENERATED IN THE U.S. WHICH COULD COMPROMISE THE SITUATION AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE. ALL AGREE TO RESPECT TOUTAH'S WISHES.

2. DR. GRUEN TO WHOM I COMMUNICATED THE SAME INFORMATION AND PLEA, SAID HE WOULD HOLD BACK STATEMENTS BY HIS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT HIAS INTERVIEWS WITH THE UNMARRIED WOMEN WHO JUST ARRIVED HAD DISCLOSED THAT TWO RELATIVES OF TWO OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOMEN HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO SIGN CONFESSIONS THAT THEY HAD VISITED ISRAEL WHEN IN FACT THEY HAD NOT. THE TWO GIRLS DID NOT, HOWEVER, GIVE THE NAMES OF THE TWO RELATIVES, FEARING IT WOULD LATER COME OUT THAT THEY HAD BEEN THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.

3. WITH SHALOM, I ALSO PRESSED ON HIM THE DESIRABILITY

OF A MARRIAGE OR TWO IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IF NECESSARY
DROPPING THE ONE PART OF THE CEREMONY WHICH WOULD ALLOW
THEM AT SOME FUTURE TIME TO ANNUL THE MARRIAGE WITHOUT
STAIN TO EITHER PARTNER UNDER JEWISH RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS.

4. MIKE LEWEN IN SOLARZ'S OFFICE ASSURED ME THAT SOLARZ
HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE ANY STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IMPLYING
THAT THE PROXY MARRIAGES WERE MERELY A DEVICE FOR
SECURING THE EMIGRATION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN. HE IS
SENDING ME MATERIALS QUOTING SOLARZ WHICH I MAY NOT
HAVE SEEN. ACCOUNTS I HAVE SEEN, HOWEVER, DO NOT CITE
SOLARZ AS SUGGESTING THIS IN ANY WAY. THE GWERTSMAN
ARTICLE QUOTES SHALOM AS SAYING THE PROXY MARRIAGES ARE
NOT LEGAL IN NEW YORK AND THAT IF THE "HUSBANDS" AND
WOMEN DECIDE TO BE HUSBAND AND WIFE, THEY WILL HAVE
ANOTHER WEDDING, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CIVIL LICENSE.
IN THIS CONNECTION, NEW YORK AREA TV AND RADIO STATIONS
HAVE BEEN HAVING A FIELD-DAY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE
WOMEN AND I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MONITOR THE THRUST OF
THEIR COMMENTS.

5. WILL POUCH YOU MATERIALS WHICH I HOPE WILL HELP YOU
IN REFUTING CHARGES MADE BY SHOUFI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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